

SCIENCE AT THE NSLS

Kendra Snyder

NSLS Science Writer

As the new science writer at the NSLS, I'm excited to introduce this year's Science Highlights and Feature Highlights sections.

Journalists are lifetime students; by 5 p.m. each day, they've become a sort of mini-expert in a topic that might have been completely foreign to them that morning. Being the NSLS science writer is no exception. Out of more than 800 articles published by NSLS users each year in peer-reviewed journals, about 50 are selected to appear on the NSLS homepage. I'm exposed to



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a number of those papers every month, and as a result, my knowledge of everything from nanoscience to condensed matter physics has greatly increased in the short time I've been here: I never thought I'd be writing about things like anisotropy, ferromagnetism, and biomineralization, let alone have those terms in my vocabulary.

Yet, there's so much more out there. The most amazing part of this job is knowing that the highlights that appear on the following pages represent just a small fraction of the science performed at the NSLS in the chemical, material, environmental, physical, and life sciences. Keep that in mind as you read this year's Science Highlights – scientist-written summarized versions of published papers – and Feature Highlights, which are written by Brookhaven Lab science writers and targeted at a general audience.

Because I joined the NSLS in June 2006, I cannot take credit for all of the editing and writing involved in creating these sections. I would like to acknowledge Laura Mgrdichian, Lisa Miller, Karen McNulty Walsh, Liz Seubert, and Kay Cordtz for their work. And of course, thank you to all of the wonderful NSLS scientists and users who have welcomed me to this unique facility and helped me understand the even more unique work they accomplish.

I look forward to another great year of working with all of you.